**YEAR 8 REPORTING THE NEWS- Option Two**

**Content**

Students will be introduced to a general understanding of news delivery. In particular they will consider the basic differences in news presentation and also explore aspects of print and digital media.

**Skills**

* Identify the different purposes used by journalists and news reporters
* Become familiar with the meaning of persuasive techniques used in the media
* Scan and identify persuasive techniques in writing and reflect on their effects on the audience
* Structure a simple response by considering the various opinions on the issue of “should all students complete homework”
* Participate confidently in small group and class discussions about any aspects of this unit

**Key terms:**

Media, print media, digital media, language, persuasive techniques, journalist, news reporter, communication, publishing, simile, alliteration, statistics, pun, repetition,

**Understanding**

* students will understand how and why the media influences the audience
* understand the importance of being a critical reader/listener of the news
* become aware of the power of the media

**A closer look at some forms of news**

**Herald Sun**

Explore a copy of the Herald Sun and comment on the following

* front page
* advertisements
* types of news stories

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type** | Daily [newspaper](http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newspaper) |
| **Format** | [Tabloid](http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tabloid) |
| **Owner** | [The Herald and Weekly Times](http://simple.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Herald_and_Weekly_Times&action=edit&redlink=1) ([News Corporation](http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/News_Corporation)) |
| **Editor** | Phil Gardner |
| **Founded** | 8 October 1990 ([The Herald](http://simple.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Herald_(Australia)&action=edit&redlink=1) – 3 January 1840, [The Sun News-Pictorial](http://simple.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Sun_News-Pictorial&action=edit&redlink=1) – 11 September 1922) |
| **Headquarters** | 40 City Road, [Southbank](http://simple.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Southbank,_Victoria&action=edit&redlink=1), [Victoria](http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victoria_(Australia)), [Australia](http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia) |
| **Official website** | [www.heraldsun.com.au](http://www.heraldsun.news.com.au/) |

**The Age**

**Now repeat the same activity with The Age**

Comment on following:

* front page
* advertisements
* types of news stories

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type** | Daily newspaper |
| **Format** | [Berliner](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berliner_(format)) (Weekday editions) / [Compact](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compact_(newspaper)) (Saturday and Sunday editions) |
| **Owner** | [Fairfax Media](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairfax_Media) |
| **Editor** | [Andrew Holden](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Holden) |
| **Founded** | 1854 |
| **Headquarters** | [Melbourne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melbourne), [Australia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia) |
| [**Circulation**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_newspapers_in_the_world_by_circulation) | Monday – Friday 685,000, Saturday 844,000, Sunday 697,000[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Age#cite_note-1) |
| [**ISSN**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Serial_Number) | [0312-6307](http://www.worldcat.org/issn/0312-6307) |
| [**OCLC**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OCLC) **number** | [224060909](http://worldcat.org/oclc/224060909) |
| **Official website** | [www.theage.com.au](http://www.theage.com.au/) |

**Look at the following websites**

[www.crikey.com.au](http://www.crikey.com.au)

[www.theage.com.au](http://www.theage.com.au)

[www.abc.com.au](http://www.abc.com.au)

Write a few sentences on the format/layout of each.

How easy are they for the public to use? Explain your answer.

Finally watch “The Morning Show” at 7am on channel seven. Write the titles of 3 news stories that were presented and the date.

What did you learn about how the viewer is engaged?

Compare your findings with the channel 7 news at 6pm in the evening.

Write a short answer indicating any similarities or differences that may exist.

1. What is an issue?
2. Examine the following 10 Issues.
3. Whaling
4. Performance enhancing drugs in sport
5. Abortion
6. Cloning and stem cell research
7. Disability rights and awareness
8. Euthanasia
9. Firearms
10. Refugees
11. Women’s rights

3. Choose two of particular interest to you and research information on these. You will need to set out your answer by looking at both sides. Present 5 points for each side. Library reference 362.2 On the shelf labelled V.C.A.L collection

EG.Firearms

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Arguments for | Arguments against |
|  |  |

The main purpose of persuasive devices is to place the reader in a position to agree with or support the writer’s point of view. (Media texts)

Draw a connecting line between the persuasive device in the left column and the appropriate definition in the right.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Description of persuasive technique | Example |
| Alliteration-Repeating and playing the same letter | He ran like a rocket.  As slow as a tortoise |
| Anecdote- A short account or story of an interesting incident | A back breaking job |
| Bias- One- sidedness in presentation of views/opinions | Fit as a fiddle |
| Clichés- worn out overused expressions | Hot blistering, sultry, muggy, suffocating….. |
| Colourful words and descriptive language- words that are heightened, vivid, lively full of interest | Eminem tour promoter. Obviously sees no danger in what Eminem says. |
| Evidence-Information, facts or statements used to support a belief, opinion, point of view or proposition. | In my experience….  Many years ago…… |
| Genearalisation- a general statement  That infers or claims that whatever is being asserted is true for most people or the majority because it may apply to some cases. | .statistics  .research  .expert opinion  .expert advice |
| Graphs and diagrams- aim to explain an interpret information | Australian children see too much violence on television. |
| Simile- One thing is likened to another using “like…or as… | The figures on the safety of Ford falcons, for example do not support the headline although the article does analyse figures clearly. |
| Tone- refers to the voice of the writer; the writer’s attitude to both the subject matter and the reader. | “Never, never, never….” |
| Inclusive language-Includes the reader and the audience by assuming that we all agree or disagree | “What do you think I am?  Your slave? |
| Repetition- Repeated words phrases or sentence patterns | “We all know that…”  “we all feel that….” |
| Rhetorical questions- questions that often have the answer embedded in them | “Lord of the Lies” |
| Pun- A play on words to suggest different meanings | “Are we going to accept these third-world hospital conditions in our country?” |

4. Your teacher will provide you with copies of the newspapers. Select 3 articles that you thought were interesting and engaging for the reader. Cut these out and stick them on a3 paper.

5. Complete the following information on the poster

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title and summary of your article | Why I chose it |
|  |  |

6. Consider “Should all students have homework”

Think carefully about your point of view on this issue.

Complete the following chart.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Reasons why students should be given homework. | Reasons why students should not be given homework |
|  |  |

7. Read the article “Parents in Australia Call for Ban on Homework”

Use your new knowledge of persuasive devices and highlight as many as you can find. Think about how they are presented in the writing in order to convince the reader.

8. Now read the next article “Two Hours Homework a Night Linked to better

School Results. You will need to repeat the same process as above.

Now that you have examined both articles it is important to provide a response on the issue of “Should all students have homework?”

In your response, try to combine your point of view in conjunction with the information from the articles given to you.

You might like to begin your answer in this way.

The issue of “should all students have homework” has caused much debate. Many members of the public believe that homework is necessary for a better future, while others feel it is a total ……………. Homework is ………………..

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| List all the arguments in favour of homework from “Two hours homework linked to better results.” | List all the arguments against the idea of regular homework from “Parents in Australia call for ban on Homework” |
| List your opinions in favour of homework here | List your opinions against the idea of regular homework here |

Write a few sentences to sum up your opinion on the issue of homework.

The ongoing issue of whether students should all have regular homework….

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

**Congratulations on your fabulous effort!!**

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